

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A tray assembly for use with an optical inspection apparatus adapted to inspect a liquid sample, the tray assembly comprising:

a support tray configured for insertion ~~insertable~~ within an inspection location of ~~within~~ an optical inspection apparatus and configured so that a light source of the apparatus illuminates a liquid sample carried on the support tray and a detector of the apparatus receives light from the liquid sample when the support tray is positioned at the inspection location; and

an insert configured to be supported ~~supportable~~ by the support tray and having a first surface, wherein the first surface is shaped[[.]] and adapted to receive and secure in place a first type of liquid carrier, and a second surface, wherein the second surface is spaced apart ~~different~~ from the first surface[[.]] and shaped[[.]] and adapted to receive and secure in place a second type of liquid carrier that is shaped differently from the first type of liquid carrier, and wherein only one of the types of liquid carriers can be received and secured in place on its respective surface of the support tray at any one time while the insert is supported by the tray,

wherein either one of the first and the second surfaces of the insert can be presented when the insert is supported within the support tray in order to receive ~~the respective~~ one of the first and the second types of liquid carrier for optical inspection, ~~so that a liquid sample carried on the liquid carrier received on the insert supported on the support tray will be~~

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

~~illuminated by the light source of the inspection apparatus when the support tray is inserted within the inspection location within the optical inspection apparatus.~~

2. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the first type of liquid carrier comprises a reagent cassette.

3. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein the first surface of the insert has a recess shaped to receive a first portion of the reagent cassette.

4. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 3, wherein an end wall of the recess of the first surface of the insert is curved to match a curved end wall of the first portion of the reagent cassette.

5. (Previously presented) An assembly for use with an apparatus adapted to inspect a liquid sample, the tray assembly comprising:

a support tray insertable within an inspection location within the liquid sample inspection apparatus so that a light source of the apparatus illuminates a liquid sample carried on the support tray and a detector of the apparatus receives light from the liquid sample when the support tray is positioned at the inspection location; and

an insert supported within the support tray and having a first surface adapted to receive a first type of liquid carrier and a second surface adapted to receive a second type of liquid carrier different from the first type of liquid carrier,

wherein the first type of liquid carrier comprises a reagent cassette and the first surface of the insert has a recess shaped to receive a first portion of the reagent cassette, and

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

wherein one of a boss and an indent is disposed within the recess of the first surface of the insert, and the reagent cassette has the other of the boss and the indent, and wherein the indent receives the boss to correctly position the reagent cassette within the insert and prevent the reagent cassette from sliding out of the insert.

6. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 5, wherein the boss is disposed within the recess of the first surface of the insert.

7. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 3, wherein the insert is adapted such that a second portion of the reagent cassette will extend outwardly beyond a first end of the insert.

8. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the second type of liquid carrier comprises a reagent strip having a plurality of reagent pads disposed thereon.

9. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 8, wherein the second surface of the insert has an elongated channel sized to accommodate the reagent strip.

10. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 9, wherein the second surface of the insert has an end wall closing the elongated channel at a second end of the insert, and wherein a top surface of the end wall is white.

11. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the first and the second surfaces of the insert face in opposite directions and the insert also comprises:

first and second opposing ends connecting the first and the second

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

surfaces; and

first and second opposing sides connecting the first and the second surfaces and extending between the opposing ends; and

the support tray includes a top surface having a compartment for receiving the insert and the compartment includes an end wall conforming to the second end of the insert and opposing first and second side walls extending from the end wall and conforming to the first and second opposing sides of the insert.

12. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein the first and the second opposing ends of the insert have different shapes.

13. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein the shape of the first end of the insert is rectangular and the shape of the second end of the insert is curved.

14. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the support tray includes a top surface having a compartment for receiving the insert and the compartment includes an end wall, and the top surface of the support tray includes a sloped surface extending from a center of the end wall of the compartment, and the first and the second surfaces of the insert include depressions that correspond to the sloped surface of the support tray when the insert is positioned within the compartment.

15. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the support tray includes a top surface having a compartment for receiving the insert and the compartment includes side walls, and the side walls include cut-outs for allowing the sides of the insert to be grasped when the insert is positioned within the compartment.

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

16. (Previously amended) An assembly for use with an apparatus adapted to inspect a liquid sample, the tray assembly comprising:

a support tray insertable within an inspection location within the liquid sample inspection apparatus so that a light source of the apparatus illuminates a liquid sample carried on the support tray and a detector of the apparatus receives light from the liquid sample when the support tray is positioned at the inspection location; and

an insert supported within the support tray and having a first surface adapted to receive a first type of liquid carrier and a second surface adapted to receive a second type of liquid carrier different from the first type of liquid carrier,

wherein the support tray includes a top surface having a compartment for receiving the insert and an elongated guide extending from the compartment, and the first and the second surfaces of the insert include elongated guides that correspond to the elongated guide of the support tray when the insert is positioned within the compartment.

17. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein the elongated guides comprise grooves.

18. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein the insert defines sinks in the elongated guides of the first and the second surfaces.

19. (Previously presented) An assembly as for use with an apparatus adapted to inspect a liquid sample, the tray assembly comprising:

a support tray insertable within an inspection location within the liquid sample inspection apparatus so that a light source of the apparatus illuminates a liquid sample carried on

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

the support tray and a detector of the apparatus receives light from the liquid sample when the support tray is positioned at the inspection location; and

an insert supported within the support tray and having a first surface adapted to receive a first type of liquid carrier and a second surface adapted to receive a second type of liquid carrier different from the first type of liquid carrier,

wherein the support tray includes a top surface having a compartment for receiving the insert and the compartment includes stops for engaging the insert when the insert is positioned within the compartment, to prevent the insert from sliding out of the compartment.

20. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein the stops of the support tray engage a first end of the insert when the insert is positioned within the compartment.

21. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the support tray includes first and second opposing ends, a top surface extending between the first and second opposing ends and having a compartment extending from the first end for receiving the insert, and wherein the top surface of the support tray includes an elongated channel extending from the second end of the support tray, and a calibration strip is received in the elongated channel of the support tray.

22. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the support tray includes first and second opposing ends, a top surface extending between the first and second opposing ends and having a compartment extending from the first end for receiving the insert, and the support tray includes a land extending from the first end and having a lip for catching fluid leaking from the insert when the insert is positioned in the compartment.

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

23. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the support tray includes a side wall having a notch for detection by another detector of the liquid sample inspection apparatus when the support tray is inserted into the apparatus.

24. (Previously amended) An assembly for use with an apparatus adapted to inspect a liquid sample, the tray assembly comprising:

a support tray insertable within an inspection location within the liquid sample inspection apparatus so that a light source of the apparatus illuminates a liquid sample carried on the support tray and a detector of the apparatus receives light from the liquid sample when the support tray is positioned at the inspection location; and

an insert supported within the support tray and having a first surface adapted to receive a first type of liquid carrier and a second surface adapted to receive a second type of liquid carrier different from the first type of liquid carrier,

wherein the support tray includes a cam surface for opening a door of the liquid sample inspection apparatus when the support tray is extended from the apparatus and closing the door when the support tray is retracted into the apparatus.

25. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 24, wherein the support tray includes a side wall and the cam surface extends from the side wall.

26. (Original) A system including the tray assembly of claim 24, and further including a liquid sample inspection apparatus comprising:

an opening into which the tray assembly is retracted and extended;

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

an inspection location within the opening for receiving the tray assembly;

a door which opens and closes the opening;

a light source for illuminating a liquid sample carried on the tray assembly when the support tray is received in the inspection location; and

a detector for receiving light reflected off the liquid sample from the light source;

wherein the cam surface of the support tray of the tray assembly interacts with the door of the inspection apparatus such that the cam surface opens the door when the support tray is extended from the apparatus and allows the door to close when the support tray is retracted into the apparatus.

27. (Previously presented) An assembly for use with an apparatus adapted to inspect a liquid sample, the tray assembly comprising:

a support tray insertable within an inspection location within the liquid sample inspection apparatus so that a light source of the apparatus illuminates a liquid sample carried on the support tray and a detector of the apparatus receives light from the liquid sample when the support tray is positioned at the inspection location; and

an insert supported within the support tray and having a first surface adapted to receive a first type of liquid carrier and a second surface adapted to receive a second type of liquid carrier different from the first type of liquid carrier,

wherein the first and the second surfaces of the insert include elongated guides.

28. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 27, wherein the elongated guides

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Amendment dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2005

comprise grooves.

29. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 28, wherein the insert defines sinks in the elongated guides of the first and the second surfaces.

30. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein first and second opposing ends of the insert have different shapes.

31. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 30, wherein the shape of the first end of the insert is rectangular and the shape of the second end of the insert is curved.

32. (Original) An assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein the insert is removable from the support tray.

33. (Original) A system including the tray assembly of claim 1, and further including a liquid sample inspection apparatus comprising:

an inspection location for receiving the tray assembly;

a light source for illuminating a liquid sample carried on the tray assembly when the support tray is received in the inspection location; and

a detector for receiving light reflected off the liquid sample from the light source.

34-69 (Withdrawn)